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POL 1-05 Dom. Republic

I+S 7-05 Dom. Republic

Letters to the Editor**Dominican Atrocities**

Concern over Viet-Nam or something else has led our press and our people largely to ignore or play down the Dominican situation. Thousands of our boys are involved in our military intervention behind the facade of The Organization of American States. The OAS lacks the support of the governments of our most democratic neighbors and has aroused intense popular opposition in Latin America. Only a handful of Costa Rican police have come from a country free from a government under military domination to join a small OAS appendage to our military force.

United States intervention virtually created the Imbert junta which Washington has not quite dared to place in power, but recognizes as a major factor in negotiations for peace.

Now we have a report sent by the Secretary General of the OAS to the U.N. which has been all but ignored by the American press. It concerns a grisly charge of coldblooded murder of at least 39 civilians on various occasions between May 2 and June 22.

The investigation found 17 cadavers to examine. Its investigation precluded any pos-

sible alternative to the guilt of Imbert's men. His junta refused to aid the investigation. I quote a little of the report:

"Summarizing the results from the various sources of information, this can be established: members of the police, on some occasions, or members of the Army, on others, proceeded to apprehend civilians, and accused them of various offenses. . . . Systematically they were taken in the direction of La Victoria from the capital, in nighttime transfers prior to midnight that did not complete their presumed itinerary. For example, once an automobile with six prisoners, one woman among them, arrived at Mata Redonda, where they were made to alight and they were shot amid cries and weeping. One of the six prisoners managed to save himself and escaped. We obtained his name and conversed with him. The cadavers remained unburied, as a warning to others."

This same Imbert has played with Communists in his search for power, as Bosch never did. But Washington still deals with him as a possible savior of the Dominican Republic and much of the press goes slow on his Communist connections and on these atrocities.

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